

REMARKS

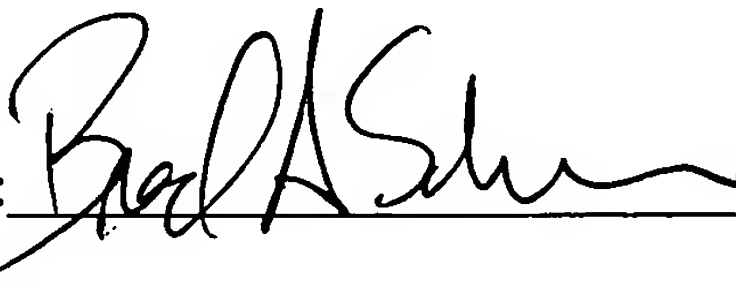
A Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 was mailed to the Applicant on May 11, 2006 asserting that claims 1-62 are directed to multiple invention groups and multiple invention species.

The Applicant notes that a Preliminary Amendment filed with the subject application on August 21, 2003 cancelled claims 1-49, 56 and 57. Accordingly, claims 50-55 and 58-62 are the only claims pending in the subject application.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, the Applicant hereby elects the Invention Group IV, including apparatus claims 50-55. Additionally, the Applicant notes that the species groups listed on page 6 of the Office Action do not require an election of species with regard to the nerve retractor recited in claims 50-55. Accordingly, the species restriction is believed to be moot in view of the election of Invention Group IV.

The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of claims 50-55 in view of the foregoing election.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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